EXCITING NEWS.

Bold and Dashing Raid of the Rebel Gunboats.

The Mercedita and Another Union Gunboat Sunk Off Charleston.

Four Union Gunboats Set on Fire by the Rebel Rams.

THE QUAKER CITY DISABLED

Her Surrender, but Final Escape with One Wheel.

SCATTERING OF THE UNION FLEET.

The Blockade of Charleston Formally Declared Raised by Gen. Beauregard and Com. Ingraham.

Important Meeting of the Foreign Consuls.

They Declare the Blockade Legally Abolished.

Reappearance of the Block

ading Fleet,

The Operations at Charlesten

[Telegrams to the Richmond Dispatch.]

with three steamers as tenders, went out beyond the bar at one o'clock this morning to attack the blockading fleet. Bring began soon after one, and for a time was very sapid and continuous. Afterwards it slackened, but constaned at intervals until nine o'clock this morning. Owing to the fog the regult has not yet been ascertained. nder Ingraham is aboard the Palmetto State a

SECOND DESPATCE.

CHARLESTON, Jap. 31, 1863. This morning the gunboats Palmetto State, Captain Butledge, and Chicera, Captain Tucker, accompanied by small steamers—the General Clinch, Etiwan and am, made an attack on the blockaders, and succeeded in sinking two and crippling a third.

The engagement commenced at four o'clock The Palmetto State, with Commodore Ingraham on board, opened fire upon the federal gunboat Mercedita. carrying eleven guns and one hundred and fifty-eight men which was soon sunk in fire fathoms of water. Her commander, Captain Stellwagen, with a boat's crew, came on board and surrendered. One shot pierced her boiler, going clear through. Captain Stellwagen and crew were paroled by Commodore ingraham.

Captain Tucker, of the Chicors, reports sinking queber Pederal gunboat and the disabling of the steaming Quaher Oity. The latter was set on fire by the Chicora, and hauled down her flag to surrender, but afterwards man aged to escape, using only one wheel. She was very seriously damaged.

The number of the blockading fleet outside at the time of the attack was thirteen, with two diret class frigates.

the Susquebanna and Canandaisus. The federal loss was very severe. It was a complete success en eur part, with not a man hurt.

Our gantonia were not even struck. All the blockaders have disappeared. There is not one to be seen within ave miles with the strongest kind of classes. Our beats are new returning to Charleston.

The following is the official despatch:-THE REBEL OFFICIAL REPORT.

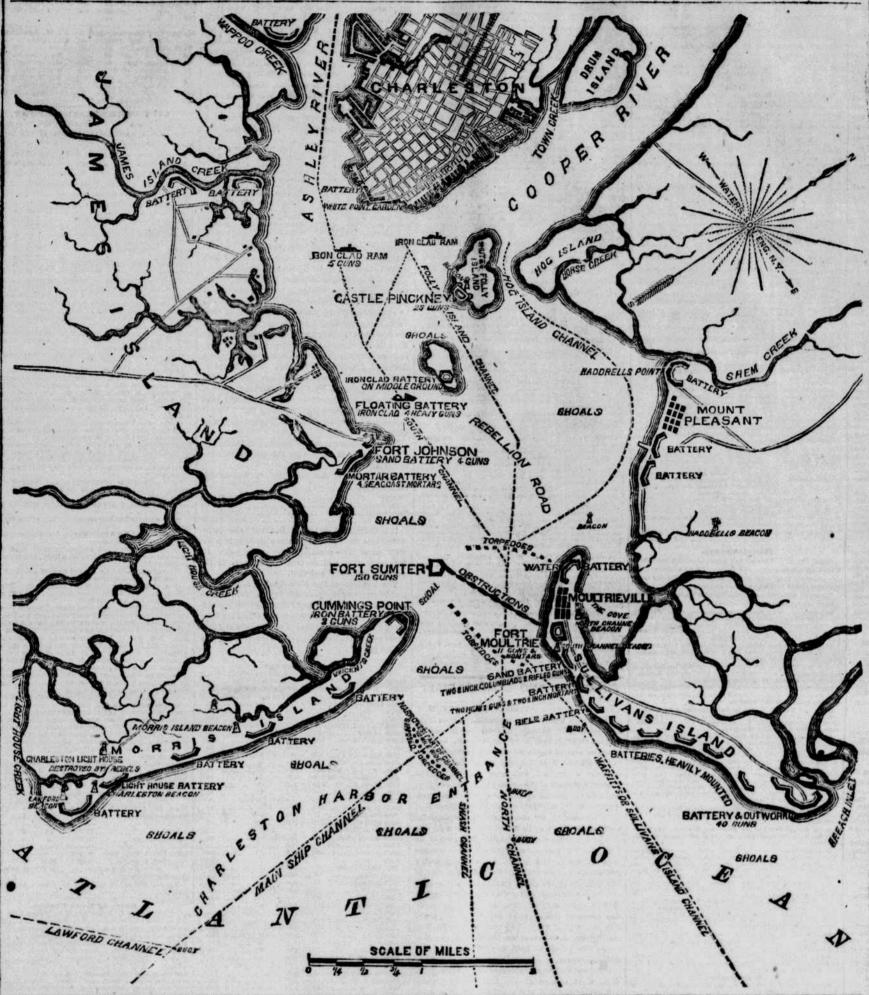
. ON BOARD GUNBOAT PALMETTO STATE. I went out last night. This vessel struck the Mercedita. when she sent a beat on board and surrendered. The sunk one vessel and set another on are, when she struck her flag. The blocknoting fleet had gone to southward and eastward out of sight. D. N. INGRAHAM.

Fing Officer Commanding.

CHARLESTON , Jan. 31, 1863. Our conboats Paimette State and Chicora have reached the wharver. They were outhorizatically cheered by an mease concourse of citizens who had assembled to greet them. Salutes were fired from the forts and bette

Not a man was burt on our side, and our ganbeats were not elemek by the enemy. Our attack on the fiers was a !

Scene of the Dash of the Rebel Rams-The Rebel Preparations for the Defence of Charleston.



away without earing for the others.

R is supposed that nearly all of the arms of the Mercelite erished.

The l'almetto State, which engaged the Mercedita, having no boats and fighting at the time, could render her no

FOURTH DESPATCH.

CHARLESTON, Feb. 4, 1968. General Besurogard and Commodore Ingraham, as comnanders of the land and naval forces, have issued a join proclamation, dated January 31. declaring the blockade of Charleson valued, the entire hostile upsadron having been sunk, burned or dispersel by the experier naval forces of the

Yesterday afternoon General Beauregard pisced a steamer at the disposal of the foreign Consult to see for themselves that no blockade existed.

The French and Spanish Consuls, accompanied by General Ripley, accepted the invitation. The British Consel, with the Commander of the British was steamer Petrel, had previously gone five miles beyond the usual anchorage of the blockaders and could see nothing of

Late in the coming four blockwiers recopeared, recoins far out. This eccaing a large member of biogladers are in sight, but here steem up, evidently ready to run

THE LATEST DESPATOR. (MARLESTON, Feb. 1, 1868.

BEADQUARTERS, LAND AND NAVAL FORCES, CHAPLESTON, S. C., Jan. 51, 1863.

At about five o'clock this morning the Confederate States payed force on this station attacked the United States blockeding feet off the barbor of the city or Charleston, and sunk, dispersed or drove of and out of light for the time the entire hostile fleet.

tively of the Confederate Sinter naval and land forces to this quarter, do hereby forwally declare the blockade by the United States of the said city of Charleston, S. C., to be raised by a superior force of the Confederate States from and after this lift day of January, A. D. 1862.

G. T. BEAUREGARD. D. N. INGRAHAM.

Fing Officer commanding Naval Forces in South Ca

Official:-Thomas Journay, Chief of Staff. The results of the naval organoments yesterday

The foreign Consuls bere held a meeting last night,

Twenty blocksders are off the bar to day.

Other very important movements are in progress

The News in Petersburg. Persusuung, Va., Feb. 1, 1863.

The news from Charleston created great joy here. The News in Fredericksburg.

HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, Feb. 3, 1863. Parties who crossed the river yesterday, under flag of truce, state that the rebels in Fredericksburg were very jubilant over the news from Charleston, among which was the official proclamation of General Beaure

gard and Commodore Ingraham declaring the blockade at Charleston raised.

Great cheering was heard among the robel soldiers in town, and a brass band was playing in the court bouse. Our pickets on this side of the river were bailed by those on the opposite bank and assured that the war would be fixed within a month. "The game is up with you now,"

THE UMON COMMANDERS AND VESSELS.

Our readers, with the above telegrams before them, will

The United States Gunbont Mercedita.

The propeller gunboat Mercedita was designed and built in 1861 by Mr. Edward Lupton, at Williamsburg, Long bland, and was intended for the New York and Hayans Steam Navigation Company, to run between New York, Havana and Tenas. The bull was put together in the strongest manner, having diagonal oak braces nine by two and a half inches every four feet over her ceiling, running from upper dock clamp to diffeen inches below floor heads, belted with iron at each intersection, and all the treenails passing through the ship and wedging in the braces. She had water tight compartments, independent fire pumps, &c.

ten knots per hour, with from sixty to sixty five revoluto nine tons of coal per day. She was 1,070 tons register,

severement bought her and made extensive alterations o as to fit her for a first class guabout. On the 5th of December, 1861, she was put in commission at the Brook Gulf, from which she returned to this city on the 2d of August, 1862, for some slight repairs, after having been in service for about eight months. During her absence she was three months on blocksding duty and four months in active cruising, and it was said her crew battery and other exercises while on her cruise

For some time she was stationed off Pass a l'Outre, in company with the gunboat Wincoa, where, by their unfeet of steamers at New Orleans from leaving, with their made to run three vessels out; but they were forced to be

ordered to Apalachicola. The particulars of the capture of that place, together with seven vessels (three of which were burned) by this vessel and the gunboat Hagamore, have been made public. This event placed in our pose don one of the most important points in Florida. Pro ceeding to Key West, she was assigned a cruising ground off Abace, where in four months she captured three ven sem of an aggregate value of \$1,500,000, among them the notorious Bermuda, and earned for herself the title of "The Terror of the Gulf." She mounted nine gune, and had about two numbered

city the following was a list of her officers: but whether any changes have been made since we know not --

Commander—Henry S. Stellwagen.
Licelement and Executive Officer—Frovett Abbott.
A sing Mulcra-Chan. B. Wilder, Chan. B. Baldwin, F.
Gower, John Dwyer.
Acting Assistant Surgeon-C. H. Haston.
Acting Assistant Surgeon-C. H. C. Stellwagen.
Senter Engineer—Alox. Daig.
Acting Third Assistant Engineers—S. Rochfeller, J. A.
Graver, E. Martin.

SKETCH OF CAPTAIN STRLLWAGES

Captain Benry Stellwagen is a native and citizen o Pennsylvania, from which State he was appointed to the navy in 1928. On the lat of April in that your he received gloop of war Vandalia, eighteen gune, engaged on the tached to the receiving ship at Philadesphia, the Sea Gull, a galliot. He was afterwards appointed to the schooler Grampus, twelve guns, which was, at the end of 1863, on the West India station. was, at the end of 1863, on the West India station. At his old post in Philadelphia. He was afterwards do. This veget remained on that station until 1808, when she turbed, for at the beginning of 1808 we find him awaiting

was ordered home for repairs. During the interval be tween her being detailed on this service and her return, the subject of our sketch passed his examination and was warranted as a passed midshipman, with rank dating from June 14, 1834. At the commencement of 1836 we find him awaiting orders. He was next attached to the frigate United States, forty-four guns, Captain Jesse Wilkinson, stationed in the Mediterranean, under Commodore the end of which year he was absent on leave-the United again ordered to Philadelphia, to asset at the Rendezvous in that city, where we find iffm at the deginning of 1840. On the 24 of July in that year he Surveying Department. He left this in 1842, and was next attached to the brig Porpoise, ten gone, stationed on the Coast of Africa. He held the command of the Pornoise 1843 and part of 1844. In November of the latter year the Perpoise returned to New York for repairs, and Lieu-Thant Stellwagen was allowed absence on leave. He was Assistant Governor, in which position we find him at the me equadron, but at the beginning of 1847 was an-signed. He was, however, soon after appointed to a cores, from which he was detatched in August, 1847, and ordered to the Rendezvous at Philounder Commander McKean. He was noxt atorders at the curiler part of 1849 for the Pacific. At the beginning of 1850 we find this vessel beliring the flag of dore Thomas Ap Category Jones, with Z. F. Johntive officer. In 1851 the Savasmah was on the same sta-

McCauley. The vessel returned bome to October. absence. In 1852 he was again attached to the Court Sorwhich he returned in October, 1823. He was again attached to the Coast Survey, and on the 12th of January, 1854, was placed in command of the office to Philadelphia He again went on a short cruise, from which he returned in December, 1854. He was, on the 17th of January, 1855, again placed in charge of the office in Philadelphia. On the 14th of September, 1855, he was promoted to the rank of commander, and still attached to the chief command of the Caset *.urthe trip along the coast, returning in November. On States Coast Survey's chief office in Philadelphia. Strange the Orcto or Florida, was a lieutenant of one of the made a five months' cruise around the coust, returning in

to the breaking out of the rebellion. In 1861 he formed one of the members of the court martial assembled to try Comon blecksding service in the Guif, &c. On the 19th of November, 1862, he was premoted to a captainty. His captures of contraband vessels made a considerable list; and but for this mishap he doubtless would have added many more to the number. For the present his career of

The United States Gunbont Quaker City. The side whoel ganbeat Quaker City was built at Philo-delphia by Mesers. Vaugh & Lyno in 1854, and is 1,428 tons register. She has a side lover engine, with a cylinder of eighty-eight mones in diameter and six feet stroke of ston. She ran between Philadelphia and Havana for time, and was then purchased by parties in New York, and kept-on the route between this city and Havana until she was bought by the United States government, since which time she has been in active service, and ow country. She was one of the first vessels bought by the reputation as a fact vessel.

The Quaker City was employed during the greater part of the year 1861 in blockading service on the Chesapeake to the summer of 1862 she was engaged in blocksding and cruising in the Gulf, and made some valuable car tures, one of which was the robel steamer Adela, which she captured off Abaco. She arrived at Key West on the 26th of July last, having in tow the British schoener Orion, which she took while cruising on the Cau

From the Gulf the Quaker City repaired to Philadelphia, where size was overhauled. On the 4th of October she sailed from that port for the Gulf, and on or about the 10th or 11th of the same month she got ashore off North Ediste; but was extricated from her persions position without receiving much damage.

The Quaker City has a crew of about two hundred men.

and mounts now gune.

The following list of officers were attached to her in

October last :-

October last !—
Commander—James Madison Frailey.
Licethward and Executive Officer—Samuel L. Breeze,
Acting Masters—Bartlett J. Cronwelle, U. S. N.; Bersilo
Blanchard, T. Durham,
Acting Paymaster—Henry J. Bullay,
Acting Paymaster—Henry J. Bullay,
Acting Assistant Engineers—Goo, W. Farrer, John L.
Teake, Peter Robinson, J. Tennant, thos. Sister.
Acting Master's Master—Ches. A. Crawford, Lindley H.
Livingston, D. B. Barville.
Commander's Clerk—Corris F. Smith,
Gunna;—Win, H. Hamilton.
Paymaster's Clerk—Alonzo Nodine.

SKETCH OF COMMANDER PRAILEY.

Commander James Madison Frailey is a native and citizen of Maryland, from which State he was appointed to the United States Navy in 1828. He was first ordered to the cloop St. Louis, eighteen guns, engaged on the Pa-Smyrna in 1853. He remained in her until 1831, when report on the schooner Dolphin, twelve guns, also be-longing to the Pacific squadron. He was in 1805 at-tached to the line-of-battle ship Delaware, seventy-four guns, flagship of the Mediterral he was detached in 1836, and ordered to the frigate Constellation, thirty six gines, flagship of the West one, 1836, he passed his examination, and received his varrant as passed midshipman. In 1837 he was attached to the sloop Lexington, twenty guns, on the Pacific to the rendezvous at Philadelphia. At the beginning or 1841 he was ordered to the sloop Preble-sixteen; then destined to the Mediterranean. On the 8th of Sep tember, 1841, no was promoted to a lieutenantey and situched to the Proble. He returned in September, 1840 on leave. At the end of 1844 he was attached to the Asylum at that city, and at of 1845 was awaiting orders. He was next at engaged in the Home squadron, under Com-He returned from this croise in July, 1847, and was again for some time awaiting orders. He was next ordered, in nander Marston, forming part of Commodere Benjamin in December, 1850, and was then absent for a short time ship at Philadelphia where he remained for some tin twenty-two guns, Commander Balley, forming part of crew were relieved at Panama in December, 1856. He returned home in December, 1856. He was then attached to the Navel Asylum, where he remained for some time the storeship Pelease, attached to the Mediterranean squadron. On his return he was ordered to the command of the Quaker City, with the promoted rank of Commun-der. He was first attached to the Gulf and afterwards to that has rendered her temporarily unfit for service

THE REBEL COMMANDER.

ham, of the Confederate Navy.

rears of ago, is the son of the late Nathaniel Ingrahad nently naval in its character. All of them, with one exception, were officers in the navy. His father, being the intimate friend of Captain Paul Jones, volume Homme Richard, in 1779, and fought with him is the desperate actions in the annals of paval warrare. He lost in the United States ship Pickering, which went down at sea, and was never heard of, at the beginning of this century. His cousin, William Ingraham, was killed

The sele exception is the family was his onels, fire ngraham, Eq., from whom he received his name. He can our of the most accomplished gentlemen of his day, and though intimate with the leading political men of our ountry, yet from taste and oarly associations, he was a loy slist in his vious. At the opening of the Revolution is 1774, he went to Europe, and remained there until its close John Adams, when Commissioner to France in 1779, fre Paris. He returned, however, to this country in 1784 his you to enter the many-the Licotemant William In

warrant, at the age of nine years, on the 18th of June. 1812, during the last war with Great Britain. Co. dore Smith, of South Carolina, the intimate Friend of his father, being about to sail in the frighte Congress, requested Mr. Legraham to allow him to take his son with hten. "We shall probably have an engagement," said be, "and it will do him good." He accordingly went to service for two years, sattli the close of the war. He then returned home, at the age of eleven, and resumed his education at school. Since then he has, west of the time, been employed in active duty ormanded the ill fated florours in the blockade duty as Vera Cruz and other parts of the Golf coring the whole of the Mexican war, and being prestrated by steiness, was years previous to his salling for the Mediterranean, in the phia, the society of which city will long remember him

He was in ormerand of the St. Louis in 1866 in the barher of Smyrns, when he made his name so famous in con-nection with the Creta exploit white at that port,

CONTINUED ON EIGHTH PAGE